

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application;

--1. - 14. (Cancelled)

--15. (Currently Amended) A reproducing apparatus for reproducing audio signals from a recording medium on which sampled data generated by sampling audio signals from a sound source at a predetermined sampling frequency are recorded in a plurality of recording regions as said sampled data are separated into a plurality of partial portions including said audio signals in their entirety, said reproducing apparatus comprising:

readout means for reading signals from said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium; and

control means for controlling whether signals on each of said plurality of recording regions read by said readout means are to be reproduced individually or signals of a plurality of said regions are to be synthesized and reproduced-.

wherein when said recording medium is a disc shaped recording medium having two recording layers, said control means uses said readout means to reproduce a first layer, said control means in reproducing a second layer shifts to a point temporally previous to a replay end time point of said first layer to initiate reproduction, and said control means shifts after reproduction of said second layer to a point temporally posterior to said replay end time point to shift reproduction

to said first layer.

--16. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said readout means reads said signals from each of said plurality of recording regions and said control means synthesizes data obtained from each of said plurality of recording regions to reproduce said synthesized data.

--17. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said readout means includes a plurality of readout mechanisms.

--18. (Previously Presented) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein n represents a number of said recording regions, said readout means uses a single readout mechanism for reading said plurality of recording regions, and said control means causes said readout means to read said plurality of recording regions at a rate not less than n times a rate required by audio signals recorded in said respective regions to buffer said read audio signals to output said buffered signals when a volume of said buffered signals reaches a predetermined volume.

--19. (Canceled)

--20. (Currently Amended) A reproducing method for reproducing audio signals from a recording medium on which

sampled data generated by sampling audio signals from a sound source at a predetermined sampling frequency are recorded in a plurality of recording regions as said sampled data are separated into a plurality of partial portions including said audio signals in their entirety, said reproducing method comprising the steps of:

reading signals from said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium; and

controlling whether signals of each of said plurality of recording regions of said recording medium read are to be reproduced individually or signals recorded in at least two of said plurality of regions are to be synthesized and reproduced.

wherein when said recording medium is a disc shaped recording medium having two recording layers, said step of reading reproduces signals from a first layer and said step of controlling controls reproducing a second layer and shifts to a point temporally previous to a replay end time point of said first layer to initiate reproduction of said second layer, and after reproduction of said second layer said step of controlling shifts to a point temporally posterior to said replay end time point to shift reproduction to said first layer.